SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

the RaRa RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 56 | DECEMBER 2003 | NO.4

WIRELESS NETWORKING

Brad Armstrong W1YX (VP)

First, let me thank all of you who attended this year's auction. It was a great success and I fine time was had by auctioneers and auctioneers alike! Lots of fine amateur equipment found new homes.

This month is the annual joint RaRa/Kodak Amateur Radio Club. All RaRa members are invited to a special meeting of the Kodak ARC. This will take the place of December's RaRa general membership meeting. It will be held on December 5th at 8 p.m. in the Kodak Theater on the Ridge.

The presentation at the meeting will be on wireless networking. A variety of wireless topics and techniques will be covered; including how amateur radio can take advantage of this technology. A representative from local industry will be called upon as presenter.

The Theater on the Ridge is located in Kodak Building 28. The entrance to this building is easily accessible to the public on Ridge West West, about a quarter of a mile West of Lake Avenue. Free parking is available almost

COUNTINUED ON PAGE 4

RaRa
MEETING
December 5, 2003
8:00 PM
Kodak Building # 28
Theater on the Ridge
(Corner of Palm St & Ridge Rd. W)
Wireless Networking
Presented by
A Representative from Local Industry

RaRa Auction with Photos

Larry Wallnau (call sign pending)

Forget about Christie's Auction House. And do not waste your time with eBay. On November 7, RaRa held its annual auction. Auctioneers Ed Gable (K2MP, Club Historian, and Curator of the Antique Wireless Museum) and Bob Hobday (N2EVG) teamed up to hawk equipment that ranged from a Collins linear amplifier to an old wheatstone bridge in a nice wood case. Not only did they keep the pace lively, but their color commentary had the crowd in stitches. They cleverly "redefined" some equipment and provided amusing descriptions to cajole potential bidders.

With this backdrop, some fine classic rigs were put on the auction block, such as a Hammarlund HQ-140-XA ($140), a Vibroplex bug in fabulous condition, a complete KnightKit station (T150, R100, with accessories) that went for only $100, and a Heathkit transceiver, power supply, and scope ($90). Arguably, the best buy of the evening was a Collins 30L-1 amplifier which recently had been serviced and brought up to specs. It sold for a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

RARA Hotline 442-0587 Website: www.rochesterham.org

Editor.....Raymond R. Pickens WA2MYG

215 Mystic Lane Rochester, NY 14623-5426 (585) 334-8724

Internet: wa2myg@frontiernet.net

Managing Editor..... .. John A. (Jack) Kuecken KE2QJ

2 Round Trail Drive Pittsford, NY 14534-3202 (585) 381-5455

Internet: ke2qj@aol.com

Assistant Editor.....George E. Platteter AA2FO

VOL. 56 DECEMBER 2003 NO.4

OFFICERS:

President: George Platteter, AA2FO.....334-4488

Internet: aa2fo@localnet.com

Vice-President: Brad Armstrong W1YX..... 1-315-986-8638

Internet: w1yx@arrl.net

Secretary: Bob Roberts WA2QAU.....538-9555

Internet: (rrobert4@rochester.rr.com)

Treasurer: Richard Goslee K2VCZ.....334-1762

Internet: rgoslee@rochester.rr.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dale Fravel, N2LWY.....581-1175

Internet: n2lwy@arrl.net

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL.....254-0722

Internet: n2bel@frontiernet.net

Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH.....624-1929

Internet: n2eh@frontiernet.net

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV.....586-5009

Internet: wlhopkin@naz.edu

George Masny, KA2GPJ.....377-7853

Internet: ka2gpj@arrl.net

Raymond R. Pickens WA2MYG.....334-8724

Internet: wa2myg@arrl.net

William Shaw N2EKR.....288-1547

Internet: wshaw@rochester.rr.com

Club Historian: Ed Gable, K2MP

License Testing Director: Cheryl Joyce, AB2NU

Membership Chairman: George Masny, KA2GPJ

Hamfest General Chairman: Harold Smith, K2HC

Public Relations: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

License Class Director: Raymond R. Pickens, WA2MYG

Web Page Administrator: Peter Fournia, W2SKY

Club Station Trustee: Edwin Holdsworth, N2EH

The *RaRa Rag* (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive Rochester, NY 14623. Subscription is $5.00 per year (included in the annual membership dues and may not be purchased separately). Periodicals postage paid in Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The *RaRa Rag*, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333. Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the *RaRa Rag*. The *Rag* exchanges, with other organizations' publications.

PREZ SAYS...George Platteter AA2FO

I'm pleased to announce our new Contact Volunteer Coordinator for RaRa VE Testing sessions is Cheryl Joyce. Cheryl has been a key member of the VE Team for quite a while. She handles the paperwork for the session and prepares the material for submission to the VEC, who transmits it to the FCC. Her first session was on November 15th 2003. Good luck Cheryl.

CHERYL AB2NU, WITH FORM 605

We are disappointed by the reluctance of Wolfe publications to run any of RaRa's Public Service announcements, such as the announcements of the classes, etc. They were given the same promotional material other publications and the TV media were given. The Democrat and Chronicle gave us nice column coverage on the classes, and also ran a feature article, recently, including a picture on ARISS. They have also run feature articles on Ham Radio in the "Our Towns" section of Thursday's edition of the paper.

The Webster Post gave ARIES front-page coverage, and published a recent student article. Other area publications, such as Pennysaver, etc., run our promotional material.

All five Television network channels, NBC, ABC, CBS, FOX, PBS, plus cable channel 9, gave the RaRa Emergency group high scores on the air during the recent Isabella emergency. Yes we were there at Red Cross Headquarters..

At a recent Hamfest, channel 10 brought their spot news van to the Hamfest, parked it near the big double doors and gave some spot coverage of the event. Other TV channels have also given news coverage of events when they receive this material through our own Media Communications people.

Public Services Delivered!

Peter Fournia W2SKY

An impressive list of public service events has occurred in our area in the past 12 months. (See below) Hams who participated should feel good about donating their time and skills. All of the organizations served have expressed their gratitude. Special thanks go to those who have coordinated these events.

Over 15 different organizations have been served. In terms of emergency communication, an uncounted array of organizations was served along with the general public.

* December, Rochester Museum and Science Center Exhibits
* May, Ontario Shore Marathon - Arthritis Foundation
* August, Walnut Ridge Driving Competition
* August MS 150 Bike Tour for Multiple Sclerosis
* September, Alzheimer's Association Memory Walks
* September ARISS event at Webster Thomas High School
* September, Finger Lakes Foliage Bike Tour, ADA
* October, Walk for Diabetes, ADA
* October, Jamboree On the Air support at Camp Cutler
* October, Pumpkin Patrol

Additionally, the following ARES and RACES events have occurred:

* October, Ginna Radiological Observed Drill
* January, RACES/ARES Drill
* February, RACES/ARES State observed drill
* March, RACES/ARES FEMA observed exercise
* March, RACES/ARES FEMA observed demonstration
* August, Power Blackout, RACES/ARES ready
* September ARES activation, Hurricane Isabel

We do not log the man power donated by our volunteers, but, it can be estimated. Consider that the quantity of volunteers was a minimum of 5 for the smaller public service events and greater than 15 during the largest events. The duration of a volunteer's activity ranges from 2 hours to more than 8 hours for a day event. It is easy to see how this year's manpower exceeded 400 hours for the public service events alone. Time donated to the emergency services is also significant. Consider that more than 50 hams checked into the information net during the blackout and many were on standby during Hurricane Isabel.

These figures do not include the time involved with event planning by our coordinators. Nor does it comprehend the special skills and equipment that hams bring to the events.

An interesting question was posed by a reporter after the Webster High School - ISS event. He inquired about the net cost of our services if it were to be out sourced to private enterprise. The easy answer is "it wouldn't happen!" The cost of equipment can be 10's of thousands of dollars for some events. The manpower costs are similar. It happens because we have skilled and equipped volunteer amateur radio operators that do it.

The amateur radio service is chartered by congress and the FCC to, in part; serve the nation and the public particularly during emergencies. A significant portion of the 3000 hams in the greater Rochester area are doing that.

"Operate one public service event each year to stay in good operating condition!"

VE TESTING (W5YI VEC)
THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH (except if it fall on a Holiday) REGISTRATION 17:30
Contact Person Charles N2IM
n2im@arrl.net/(585) 820-9218

Huge Savings

Dental, Vision, Prescription, & Chiropractic

Household Plan $19.95 / Month
Singles Plan $11.95 / Month

Your Independent Broker: ***MARYKAY VESCO,*** *KC2DPG*
kc2dpg@bluefrog.biz (585) 381-7773

"America's number one provider of Discounted Benefits"

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, December 1983 Ed Gable K2MP

The program this month was a joint meeting between RaRa and the Kodak Park ARC, with the venue being the Kodak Recreation building on Ridge Road West. The program of the evening was about packet radio presented by a leading expert in the area, Ray Williams, WA2RYT.

Continuing with Kodak, this issue announced the 4th annual Kodak World Wide QSO Party. The KPARC also announced a new QSL for their club station, WB2WXQ. Writing for the Civil Air Patrol was Major James Wenkus, K2BEH. Jim reported that they had enough local pilots and aircraft to meet their mission, but really needed help with communications for HF SSB and RTTY, as well as 2 Meter FM.

Chris Imlay, N3AKD, wrote a two page spread on the benefits of joining the ARRL. It put in one spot a terrific list of benefits and services that still makes good reading today. Writing for the YASME Foundation, Don Wallace, W6AM, announced that famous DX travelers Lloyd and Iris Colvin were off for an eight country South American tour taking 6 months.

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association announced that the winners of their last transmitter hunt were Ed Kohl, WA2UBD and co-pilot Paul Gregory, WA2FTK. The date for the 1984 Valentine Dinner Dance was given as February 11th at the Holiday Inn-Airport.

Unusual Help Wanted ads appeared with WXXI TV looking for a TV maintenance Engineer.

From the Want ads you could buy a complete Drake C-line for $400.00 from the K2GXT Ham Club and the Heathkit Electronic Center on Jefferson Road remained a long time advertiser.

FOR SALE: Serious HF Yagi. Mosley PRO-95, 3 inch boom, 36 feet in Length, 9 elements, five bands 20 – 10 meters, 5 kW rating, 150 mph design. Current model and in catalog at >$2000. Disassembled and stored in Greece. Like new condition. Seller anxious but not unaware of value. Make offer to Ed Gable, K2MP, (585) 392-3088, or k2mp@arrl.net

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

Contact Cheryl Joyce AB2NU
For any special needs or questions
(585) 533-9252

All Elements Needed To Complete
A License Class

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 20, 2003
Registration – 8:30 AM
Testing – 9:00 AM
NEW LOCATION
ROOM 2150 IN BUILDING 76
Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623
(Turn south at the signal light between
The Radisson Inn and the Genesee River
At the traffic circle bear to the right look
For parking lot F at the far end of lot F is
Building 76 go in the main entrance up
the stairs to the second floor turn to left
To room 2150 the hall runs in a circle so
If you miss it you will end up back where
You started)

NEXT RAG DEADLINE 12/15/2003

CONTINUED FROM WIRELESS PAGE 1

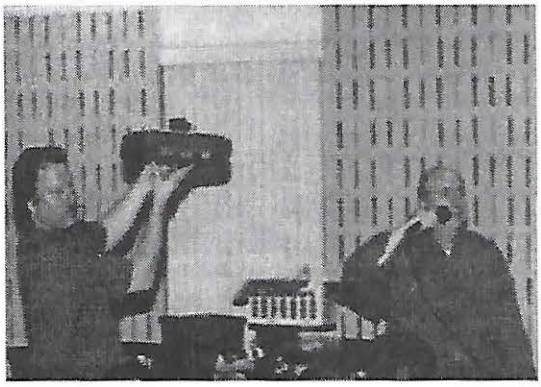
across the street in the visitor's lot and is a short walk from the silver awning marking the entrance to the building. Locate the words "Theater on the Ridge" on the front of the awning and you will know you have arrived. Members of the Kodak Amateur Radio Club will be waiting in the lobby to usher you upstairs to the Theater. Refreshments will be provided.

My hope for this year is to find as many ways for folks to get involved in local amateur activities as I can and learn a little along the way. If you have a program idea, especially one that showcases ways for local hams to get involved (doing, building, learning, any way at all), please contact me as soon as possible so I can get you on the schedule. See you at the meeting!

CONTINUED FROM AUCTION PAGE 1

bargain-basement price of $200, which is less than the cost of the tubes alone. Going from the sublime to the unusual, the Collins foot warmer was followed by a foot massager – a real one. This was the first foot massager (and perhaps the last) to appear at a RARA auction – and it sold. So did the matching back massager. To the same person!

Another odd item was an ARRL Wouff Hong. Ed Gable regaled the group with the history of this dubious award, which began and



the 1920's and was given to operators who displayed nonstandard on-the-air practices. This particular Wouff Hong "trophy" was given to all those in attendance at the 1938 ARRL Convention banquet.

The most bids were made for a Radio Shack 2-meter brick ($26) and for a 2m/70cm glass-mount antenna ($15). Also, several lots of coax drew much interest from bidders. Everyone is grateful to audio expert Brad Allen (KB2CHY), who set up and operated the sound system. Also, Vice President Brad Armstrong (W1YX) had a busy night. He hoisted heavy gear for bidders to have a good look. It was warm in the fire hall and there were many large rigs, so Brad got quite a workout.

Need A Lawyer?

call

Snyder and Snyder, Attorneys
Sherwood M. Snyder W2KFU
Paul I. Snyder

Dependable Advice

No Charge for Consultation

183 E. Main St. ● Suite 1024 ● 546-7258

Your Best Choice is Cheryl Joyce for all Your Real Estate Needs!

Nothnagle REALTORS
Cheryl Joyce
Sales Agent, AB2NU
Bus: 585-346-2332 x124
cjoyce@nothnagle.com
5820 Big Tree Road • Lakeville, NY 14480

FOR SALE: T-50H Alumna heavy duty Tower. 50 feet tall, rated for 100 Mile winds and tilts to work on the antenna. Retails for $2,500. Asking $2,250. Detailed technical specs at http://www.alumatower.com. Also, Yaesu G-1000SDX heavy duty antenna rotor. Retails for $469 + S&H. Asking $400. Buy both for $2,600!!! . Call (585) 746-5118".

FREE: 40 Foot self supporting tower with TA-33 HF Yagi And rotor. Please, only respond if you have the experience and Capability to safely dismantle and haul away. Tower has surface Rust but is in excellent condition. In Greece, call George O'gara, WB2IGO, at 225-7447.

SK ESTATE: Turner Super Sidekick Mic $20, Yaesu YS-200 Watt Meter, $50.5-position Coax Switch, $15. Straight Key, $1.50 B&W TVI Filter,$10.Pick-up Only in Webster, NY (or at RVHFG Meeting) Irv Goodman AF2K (585) 671-4430

"WOUF-HONG"???

George Masny KA2GBJ (with help from the ARRL)

Yessiree Bub! If you weren't at the November Auction you missed the privilege of seeing firsthand a genuine Wouff-Hong! What's a Wouff-Hong?!?! Why Sonny, next I know you'll be asking what be a Rettysnitch!!!

"The Wouff-Hong is amateur radio's most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation."
"The Rettysnitch". . .is used to enforce the principles of decency in operating work."

The Radio Amateur's Handbook, 1930, p. 11

Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air.

It was invented—or at any rate, discovered-by "The Old Man" himself, just as amateurs were getting back on the air after World War One. "The Old Man" (who later turned out to be Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, co-founder and first president of ARRL) wrote of the earliest days of "Rotten QRM." His very first article in 1917 blasted the concocted abbreviations just coming into use. Among the almost unintelligible gibberish in his headphones were words like "wouff hong" and "rettysnitch," surely instruments of terrifying punishment. By mid-1917, ARRL was besieged by orders for these contraptions, orders that could not be filled because the League staff had never seen either device. As The Old Man heard it, the Wouff Hong was being used on some hapless offender so effectively that he investigated. After further effort, "T.O.M." was able to locate and identify a Wouff Hong. He wrote a number of QST articles about contemporary rotten operating practices and the use of the Wouff Hong to discipline the offenders. Early in 1919, The Old Man wrote in QST "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff Hong which came to light out here . . . Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay hands on it quickly in an emergency." The "specimen of a real live Wouff Hong" was presented to a meeting of the ARRL Board and QST reported later that "each face noticeably blanched when the awful Wouff Hong was . . . laid upon the table." The Board voted that the Wouff Hong be framed and hung in the office of the Secretary of the League and there it remains to this day, a sobering influence on every visitor to League Headquarters who has ever swooshed a carrier across a crowded band.

The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air

In 1930, the Handbook had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared, and by 1947, the Handbook had deleted both photos. Figure 1 is the Wouff-Hong. The two main pieces appear to be wood banded by metal strapping and by heavy wire. What the sketch cannot convey is the darkness at the upper end of the longer wood piece, as if stained by blood or purified for its grave duties in the fires of purgatory—or both.

Figure 2 is a sketch of the Rettysnitch, an all-metal tool.
The Old Man also presented the world with its first glimpse of the Rettysnitch. In 1921, this monstrous machine was presented to the League traffic manager by the Washington, D.C., Radio Club, ostensibly after receiving it from T.O.M. Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use in ensuring operating decency among amateurs. In the May, '34, QST, Rufus P. Turner—famous in the annals of electronics writings—recounted "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts." But even by Turner's time, the Rettysnitch was relegated to a paragraph on the story's continuation page in the back of the magazine, with no picture.
In the 20s and 30s, many a reproduction of both instruments, but especially the Wouff-Hong, materialized across the country. (The photograph of one such replica of a Wouff-

Hong is courtesy of Joe Holstein, N8EA) But what has become of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch? More important, what has become of their power to enforce both decency and law and order on the ham bands? Hams used to cringe at the thought, let alone the sight, of these dreadful tools of enforcement. But, we do not hear of them much anymore. Oh, a tremor of curiosity every now and again brings out a ripple of questions and speculation. But not much more than a ripple. Like all legends, this one, too, must end with special words: pass it on.

RaRa License Class

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

Another semester will be starting Monday February 16, 2004 19:00, with 16 students 13 in the CW/Technician Theory and 3 in the General Theory remaining. This semester is winding down with only two sessions left. A special Class only VE session will be held at 19:00 Monday Night December 1, 2003.

I'm pleased to say that one CW/ Technician student has already upgraded from Novice to Technician, (KB2PZN) Another passed Element 2 & hopefully will pass Element 1 on December 1st (KC2MCB). One more ex CW/ Technician took and passed both Element 's 1 and 2 at one sitting, moved to the General Theory Class for three weeks then took & passed element three at the Kodak VE session on November 6th (KC2LOC). Two ex General Theory students took & passed Element 3, (KC2LLV) at the October 18, RaRa VE session and (KB2RPV) took and passed both elements 1 and 3 at the November 15th RaRa VE Session.

With a three student addition to the original 20 twenty that started on September 8, 2003, having 16 Students left going into the 10th week in my limited (2 year) experience as license class director I think is acceptable. Not what I wanted to see but acceptable. Everyone has to remember one very important fact Amateur Radio is A HOBBY and anyone with enough interest to devote 12 weeks out of their life to take the License Class will be rewarded with a lifetime of Amateur Radio enjoyment.

RaRa HOTLINE
(585) 442-0587 24 X 7

RADIO RANCH FOR SALE:

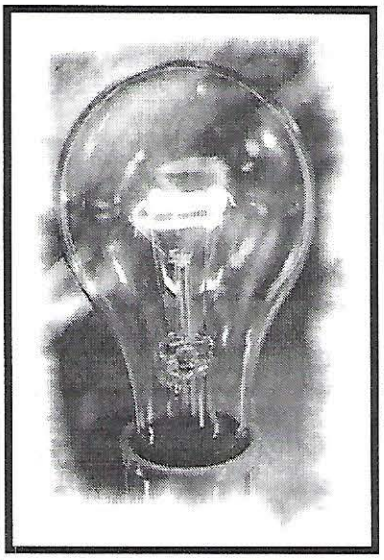
Beautiful hilltop location in Bloomfield, NY with tremendous view.4 Bedroom "L" shaped ranch, brick stucco construction with 24 inch roof overhang, set on 9.6 acres. 3 bedrooms with walk-in closets and built in bookshelves. Home is carpeted throughout. Large living room with Fireplace, Sun room, Dinette, Dinning room, and Kitchen with Microwave, Electric Range, Dishwasher, Jenn Air Grill, Refrigerator and many large cabinets. Laundry area off kitchen with washer and dryer.3 Bathrooms all ceramic tiled. Master bathroom with Whirlpool tub and large shower off master bedroom. Small shower off kitchen. 2.5 car garage with lots of storage space. 2200 square feet plus full walk-out basement. 1.5 acre pond in front yard. Several tall radio towers come with the property. Also a massive dish pedestal with SCR-522 mount. Will handle a 28 foot dish. All this can be yours for $224,900. Contact Floyd, WA2WVL at 585-657-6426 or 352-621-7265.

"NEWBIE NET"

Ray Pickens WA2MYG

To all Rochester and Area Hams: Join in every Sunday evening following the Monroe County FM Net. The Sunday agenda is: 20:20 plus or minus 3-4 minutes depending how long Amateur Newsline is, followed by K2KWK with his Hilltop Bulletins at 20:45: at 21:00 the Monroe County FM Net comes on this all alternates between the 146.28/88 (K2RRA/R) and the 146.19/79 (K2SA/R).Then after left over FM Net business is taken care of and the frequency is free the "NEWBIE NET" Starts.

This net is as the name implies a question and answer type net not only for newly licensed hams but Not limited to, any ham new or old is welcome to check in with questions, comments, and hopefully to Supply answers to submitted questions from time to time I do announce my email address during the net and have received a few emails from unlicensed, Mike shy and or hams who don't own a transceiver with questions along with scanner buffs who just Say that they enjoy listening and to keep it up, someday maybe the scanner buffs will realize that they To can be a Licensed Amateur.



LET US HELP YOU PATENT YOUR INVENTION

HOWARD J. GREENWALD, P.C.
349 West Commercial Street, Suite 2490
East Rochester, New York 14445
Telephone: (585) 387-0285

Howard J. Greenwald, AB2HD, Patent Attorney
John M. Hammond, P.E., Patent Agent, Chemical Engineer
Peter J. Mikesell, Ph.D., Patent Agent, Chemist
Robert D. Gunderman, P.E., Electrical Engineer

NO CHARGE TO RaRa MEMBERS FOR CONSULTATION

GLEN WOOD SALES

594 HAGUE STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14606

HOURS:
M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SAT 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

PH: (585) 328-1600
FAX: (585) 328-3630

ELECTRONIC COMPONENT PARTS

(NEW AND NEW SURPLUS)

I LARGE SELECTION
I HIGH QUALITY
I LOW PRICES
I IN-DEPTH INVENTORY

WE STOCK THE FOLLOWING:

AC CORDS	ICS	SOLDER
CAPACITORS	LAMPS	SWITCHES
COAX CABLE	LED'S	TRANSISTORS
CONNECTORS	MOTORS	TRIACS
DIODES	POTENTIOMETERS	TRIM POTS
ENCLOSURES	RELAYS	VARIABLE CAPS
FANS	RESISTORS	WIRE/CABLE
FUSES	SCR"-S	ZENER DIODES
FUSEHOLDERS	SHRINK TUBE	LOTS MORE

TRY GLENWOOD FOR ALL YOUR COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS

FULL LINE DISTRIBUTORS FOR

NTE	Replacement Semi's	TYTON	Cable Ties
PRB	VCR Belts & Accy	PROTEK	Test Gear
GC/THORSEN	Tools & Chemicals	MUELLER	Test Leads
SL WABER	Outlet Strips +	GOLDSTAR	Test Gear
WAH L	Soldering/Drilling Tools & Accy	PALADI N	Tools

Search our Inventory at www.glenwoodsales.com